

Summer Holidays Drama Preparatory Tasks 2024

1. Read this simplified account of the story of Oedipus (pronounced **Ee-di-pus**).
2. Research and comprehension task: answer the multiple-choice questions.
3. Using reliable information for research, draw a family tree for the family, from King Laius' generation to Antigone's.

THE LEGACY OF OEDIPUS AND TRAGIC ORIGINS OF ANTIGONE.

In the ancient city of Thebes, long before skyscrapers and mobile phones, King Laius and Queen Jocasta received a chilling prophecy. The Oracle of Delphi, a messenger of the gods known for his eerily accurate foretelling, claimed their newborn son, Oedipus, would grow up to kill his father and marry his mother. Horrified, Laius ordered a shepherd to abandon the baby on a mountainside, hoping to avert the prophecy.

But fate, as they often say, works in mysterious ways. A shepherd from the neighbouring kingdom of Corinth found the abandoned Oedipus and gave him to the childless King Polybus and Queen Merope. Oedipus was raised as their son, ignorant of his true origins.

As Oedipus grew, he too heard the prophecy that he was destined to murder his father and marry his mother. Believing Polybus and Merope were his biological parents, he fled Corinth to prevent this terrible fate from unfolding.

During his journey, Oedipus encountered a crossroads — a critical turning point. An older man in a chariot, accompanied by his servants, rudely commanded Oedipus to move aside. In the heated argument that ensued, Oedipus killed the old man and his servants. Unbeknownst to him, the old man was his biological father, King Laius of Thebes — the first part of the prophecy was unwittingly fulfilled.

Oedipus continued his journey and arrived in Thebes, which was in great distress. A ferocious Sphinx, a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a human, was terrorizing the city, permitting only those who could solve her riddle to enter. Oedipus, using his intelligence, solved the Sphinx's riddle, causing her to throw herself off a cliff in despair.

As a reward for freeing the city from the Sphinx, the Thebans offered Oedipus the throne (vacant after King Laius' unexplained death) and the hand of the widowed

queen, Jocasta. Oedipus accepted, unknowingly marrying his mother, fulfilling the second part of the prophecy.

Years passed, and Oedipus and Jocasta had four children: two sons, Eteocles and Polynices, and two daughters, Ismene and Antigone. Meanwhile, a deadly plague struck Thebes. Consulting the Oracle of Delphi, Oedipus learned that the plague was a punishment from the gods for the unpunished murder of King Laius.

Determined to save his city, Oedipus started an investigation into Laius's death, unknowingly digging into his past. The truth finally came to light: the man he killed at the crossroads was his father, Laius, and his wife, Jocasta, was his mother. Jocasta, upon realizing the truth, hung herself in despair.

Overwhelmed by the horrific reality, Oedipus blinded himself with Jocasta's brooches and renounced his throne. His two sons agreed to alternate ruling each year, but a power struggle ensued, leading to a civil war. This sets the stage for the next phase of the family's tragic history, with his daughters, Ismene and Antigone, caught in the middle.

Name:	
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GREEK TRAGEDY MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

Questions:

1. Who were Antigone's parents?
 - A) Jocasta and Creon
 - B) Oedipus and Jocasta
 - C) Laius and Jocasta
 - D) Oedipus and Creon's wife
2. What was the name of Antigone's uncle who became the king of Thebes after Oedipus' exile?
 - A) Polybus
 - B) Laius
 - C) Creon
 - D) Polydorus
3. Who were the adoptive parents of Oedipus?
 - A) Polybus and Merope
 - B) Cadmus and Harmonia
 - C) Laius and Jocasta
 - D) Creon and his wife
4. Antigone has a sister. What is her name?
 - A) Eurydice
 - B) Ismene
 - C) Harmonia
 - D) Semele
5. Who was engaged to Antigone?
 - A) Polyneices
 - B) Eteocles
 - C) Haemon
 - D) Laius

6. How were Antigone's brothers, Eteocles and Polynices, related to each other?

- A) They were half-brothers.
- B) They were cousins.
- C) They were twins.
- D) They were not related.

7. Who did Antigone defy by performing burial rites for her brother?

- A) Oedipus
- B) Laius
- C) Creon
- D) Eteocles

8. What was the Sphinx's riddle that Oedipus solved?

- A) What walks on four feet in the morning, two in the afternoon, and three at night?
- B) What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
- C) What can be broken but is never held?
- D) What has keys but can't open locks?

9. Who prophesied that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother?

- A) The Sphinx
- B) The Oracle of Delphi
- C) Zeus, the king of gods
- D) Creon

10. How did Jocasta, mother of Antigone, die?

- A) She was killed by Oedipus.
- B) She was killed by the Sphinx.
- C) She died of natural causes.
- D) She died by suicide.